

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 4, Folder 24

August 29, 1957 -
December 19, 1957

0512

Box III

Outgoing Minneapolis, 1957

Speech before legislators

Short excellent discussion of sea power.

Interesting account of a ceremonial.

05 13

29 August 1957

Dear Captain Moncure:

I haven't heard a word from you relative to the relief for Captain Gimber who will be leaving on Friday. Owing to the long period of preparation required for an officer here to become of value it seems important that the sooner we obtain a competent officer the better. In my last visit there with you it was my understanding that you were going to send me a list of names of officers and I was to select one and perhaps two captains. In this connection I should like to emphasize that I don't want captains who will be coming up for admiral while here, but instead prefer to have young captains (or senior commanders). This is because, whether you know it or not, older officers are a little too set in their ways. I don't know who you have in mind but I should appreciate a good choice in this matter. There is one requirement of considerable importance; that is the officers recommended must be graduates of the Naval War College. One officer I had here was a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and I didn't find him too good at first. He claimed that his course at the Armed Forces Staff College had not been particularly helpful.

I hope to be down there in about two weeks with Volume III which I am completing now. We can probably decide then what we will do. Meanwhile I should appreciate the list of names so that I can take it up with Admiral Ingersoll.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain S. P. Moncure
Room 2721, Arlington Annex
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington 25, D.C.

0514

3 September 1957

Dear Mayor Peterson:

Since I last saw you I have been out in California and did not return until the middle of August, so that I have not been able to comment particularly to you concerning your letter of August 1st. I appreciate your letter very much and I am very happy to see that the Hennepin County Historical Society will have the five National Ensigns and will set up a room therein for preservation and display.

As a matter of information I am preparing a track chart, which, I believe, is roughly six feet by four feet, which will show the movements of the MINNEAPOLIS across the Pacific during the time that the National Ensigns were displayed in battle. This was suggested by someone--probably by Mr. Myers--who felt that the track chart should be in the room with the National Ensigns.

I certainly hope that when you are in this area you will give me a call. My number is either Newport Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546 (my office) or Viking 7-0371 (my apartment).

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Honorable P. K. Peterson
Mayor of the City of Minneapolis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

0515

for Bates

3 September 1957

From: Commodore Richard W. BATES, USN, 009027/1103
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Via: President, Naval War College

Subj: Official visit to Minneapolis; forwarding of supplementary correspondence concerning

Ref: (a) COMO R. W. BATES ltr to CNO dtd 25 JUL 1957 with President NAVWARCOL ltr and thereto

Encl: (1) Ltr from HON P. K. PETERSON, Mayor of the City of Minneapolis, dtd 1 AUG 1957

1. Enclosure (1) is forwarded herewith as supplementary correspondence to reference (a).
2. It will be noted that the five USS MINNEAPOLIS battle flags (National Ensigns) will be adequately housed in the Hennepin County Historical Society Building.

R. W. BATES

RLR:mk
3 Sept 1957

FIRST ENDORSEMENT

~~Written by~~ ~~COMO RATES/~~
From: President, Naval War College
To: Chief of Naval Operations

1. Forwarded.

R. L. RAMEY
By direction

0516

11 September 1957

Dear Captain Moncure:

Apparently you have sent several names to the War College as suggestions for my office. I appreciate your interest in the matter but I don't think your choices are satisfactory for me. Very frankly the first name you sent was disapproved by the Admiral without my knowledge and the second one I have recommended against. My reasons for this are they do not fit in with War College policy. As I wrote you the other day the College does not approve having very senior officers on the staff but prefer to promote them from their own. In the case of the first officer, who clearly was very capable, the suggestion that he remain in my office for a time and then move elsewhere on the staff was a very unhappy suggestion, since it takes any officer, no matter how capable, from eight to twelve months to become qualified to produce any small part of the program at hand. Officers coming here to my staff must remain at least two years and preferably three.

The second officer you recommended is considered a fine officer but he is too senior and his class standing is pretty low. This is important in my office because the work is individual and requires a high intelligence and mental ability. Because of this I spoke to the Admiral today and he has asked me to tell you that he is coming down as soon as he can to discuss with you all his attitude toward the students and staff of the War College and his insistence on quality. Admiral Brown, now Commander SIXTH Fleet, wrote me last week as follows:

"It is good to know that the War College continues in good hands. It has a great mission to discharge and much of its ability to do so must depend upon the quality of its staff. Of course I am being trite to say so, but of equal

0517

importance is the quality of the student body. Nowhere else could the conversion into silk purses prove less profitable. I realize that these are not things I need tell you but I grieve at the number of senior naval officers who have not hoisted them aboard."

This necessity for quality has been a cardinal point with all of the Presidents of the College since Admiral Spruance. Needless to say my section requires officers of equally high qualifications to the rest of the College.

I suggested to the President that it might be well for me to go to Washington for one day on this matter so I expect to be there on Tuesday next week and I hope that you will have some officers' names available along the lines I wrote about in my previous letter.

I realize the problem you have of assigning responsible officers to responsible billets, I sympathize with your difficulties and I wish you well in your solutions. I'm sure we can agree!

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Captain S. P. Moncure, USN
Room 2721, Arlington Annex
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington 25, D.C.

0518

16 October 1957

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The bearer of this letter--Captain H.M.S. Gimber, Jr, U.S. Navy(Ret)--has served with me for the past three years. During this time he was a key member of the World War II Battle Evaluation Group of the Naval War College, which group has been analysing certain major naval battles of World War II from the viewpoint of the Commander.

Captain Gimber is a very capable officer who had had an excellent chance of advancing to higher command had he not had the misfortune to be plagued by several serious illnesses because of which he was recently retired. Very fortunately during his service in this command he succeeded admirably in rising above his infirmities and therefore his services were very helpful indeed.

He is a very hard working, highly conscientious, thoroughly devoted officer with a surprisingly accurate knowledge of many matters. For that reason, while on the War College Staff, he was constantly being interrogated by other staff members. His principal field of specialization was "naval communications."

He should be an excellent teacher as his personality lends itself directly to that field. He is a man of personal charm and friendliness.

He is recommended to anyone who seeks someone of the above qualifications.

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy(Ret)
Head World War II Battle Evaluation Group

0519

6 November 1957

Dear Mayor Peterson:

A few days ago I received a very delightful and interesting letter from you to which I am now replying. I would have replied earlier but I was finishing my third volume of the Battle for Leyte Gulf and it had to be in Washington, so I took it down Friday.

First, I want to say that your visit here was a delightful one and the very thoughtful letters which you wrote were received with great pleasure by all. Your letter to the President of the Reading Room is posted on the bulletin board for all to see and the remarks connected therewith usually are, "He is quite a fellow".

I really enjoyed having you meet some of my delightful friends, who, to quote you, "are having a hard time making ends meet". I think some of them are, because there is such a thing as being "land poor". However, to that I cannot fully attest.

I am now completing those charts which we are going to send to you. So one of these fine days don't be startled when a roll arrives in your office. It will not be a distinguished service ribbon or citation because that province belongs to the Washington command. However, it will be what you asked for and I hope that it will fit into your needs in the Hennepin County Historical Society. I am going to see that you get the other chart but I will correct it somewhat to insure that it is not wrong enough to attract the attention of students.

I must say that I enjoyed Mrs. Peterson's presence greatly. She is quite a wonderful lady and as I said before, so greatly resembles my niece that it is hard for me to separate the one from the other. However, your Mrs. is the First Lady of Minneapolis, where my niece is merely the First Lady in her home.

0520

Weather conditions during the early fall were unusually brilliant. Newport, of course, largely because of the water surroundings, has never been much in the color scheme. I had planned to make a trip into Connecticut to see this fall's color scheme, but unfortunately I was so busy with the volume referred to above that I didn't do it.

I am sending you herewith a photograph taken in the officers' club by the Daily News of Newport and, in addition, the newspaper clipping thereon. I think that the picture is quite good and I would have sent it to you earlier, but it took a long time for the Newport Daily News to produce it for me. The spot shown on my lapel, I can assure you, was not there and does not show in the newspaper clipping. So, please forgive the spot!

As a final comment on the charts, I think that you should know that the present delay in completing them is in a large part due to the fact the two artists who were working on them have both been out for almost a month with "Asiatic Flu" and have not as yet returned.

Let me thank you very much for your visit to me, for your kindness in permitting me to entertain you, and to thank you for your continuing interest in my endeavors here, notably as regards the good ship MINNEAPOLIS.

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Honorable P. Kenneth Peterson
Mayor of the City of Minneapolis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

0521

8 November 1957

Dear Miss Pinkelman:

It was very distressing to hear that you had been out for a week with the flu or some other unhappy illness. Certainly, I hope it is something less serious than the flu, because it really takes the pep out of you.

Since some of your office force say that you will be back on the 12th, I am taking the liberty of violating a promise I made to you about a change, because somehow two key words have been left out of one of the dispatches and I am sending you a corrected page.

If you feel that you cannot use this, it is all right, and we will pick it up in the next volume. However, since these volumes are supposed to be, in themselves, pretty complete it would be well if we could get this corrected page in. It was my thought that you might write directly to the Government Printing Office and, if necessary, call them on the telephone. As I told you down there, I have done this before with no unhappy results. It seems to me since the book will not come out for another month and a half that it would be a very simple thing for them to change this one page. I will call you on Tuesday about it.

For your information the error is in paragraph 2 of the dispatch order to "...penetrate through Surigao Strait into Leyte Gulf at dawn on X-day...". Unfortunately the "at dawn" was left out. We are all human and mistakes will happen.

With hopes that when you receive this letter you will be in fine fettle, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
COMO., USN

Encl: (1) Page 835, Volume III, Battle for Leyte Gulf

Miss Hilda M. Pinkelman
Room 4050 Arlington Annex
Bureau of Naval Personnel
Washington 25, D.C.

0522

20 November 1957

Sir:

I am enclosing herewith a check for \$67.70. This is complete payment for an unsatisfactory job.

In my letter of July 23rd, I said I wasn't going to pay it until the trousers had been properly fitted, but since the new trousers are no better than the first trousers I have decided to pay you off and drop it.

I don't know how many months we have been trying to get this uniform made. All that I can say is that if it takes as long to get a suit made which is "unsatisfactory" it would be interesting to learn how long it would take to get one made which is "satisfactory".

Please don't discuss the matter further!

Very truly yours,

R. W. BATES

OinC Naval Uniform Shop
U.S. Naval Activities New York
Third Avenue & 29th Street
Brooklyn 32, N.Y.

0523

19 December 1957

Dear Mayor Peterson:

There will be mailed to you tomorrow the chart which we have finally completed of the operations of the heavy cruiser MINNEAPOLIS during the battle represented by the battle flags, presently in the possession of the city of Minneapolis.

I regret the long time it took to finish this chart but the artist suddenly became ill and is still ill. He has been in the hospital over two months. However, now that the holiday season is approaching I was able to seize the whole staff of our Visual Aids Section and thereby finish this chart. I hope that you find it satisfactory and that it measures up to your requirements.

You will note that the chart which you requested for your office is not included. It will be included when I have made a new chart to insure that the chart in general is correct. I appreciate greatly your desire to have this second chart and have it you will.

I have had a picture of myself, taken at the time Admiral Nimitz decorated me for my command of the MINNEAPOLIS, blown up, and I am going to send it to you. I am hoping to have Admiral Nimitz autograph the picture.

New Subject. I was delighted at the wonderful manner with which the War College lecture team was greeted by you, Judge Carroll, and Mr. Leslie Myers, the head of the Navy League. Our officers were loud in their praises of Minneapolis in general and of the above three gentlemen in particular.

0524

I am going to California for a week for Christmas after which I plan to return here by the end of the year.

I certainly hope that you and your wonderful wife have a delightful Christmas and New Year. Needless to say I feel that Minneapolis can't fail to have both the above with the Honorable P. Kenneth Peterson as Mayor.

Sincerely,

R. W. BATES

Honorable P. Kenneth Peterson
Mayor of the City of Minneapolis
Minneapolis, Minnesota

0525